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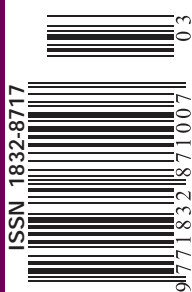
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ISSUE 16
QUARTERLY

subTropical Gardening

and landscaping in warm climates

**local advice for
local gardeners**



■ TROPICAL
– hoyas and roses



■ COLOUR
– orange



■ KITCHEN GARDEN
– pumpkins and guava



■ CALENDAR
– what to do

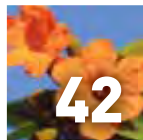
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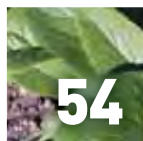
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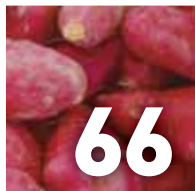
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SPRING FLOWERS

Nature's Garden

PEST CONTROL HOME REMEDIES



By Colin Campbell

In the past it was the practice for gardeners to get out the chemical sprays as soon as a pest or disease problem was noticed but nowadays, thankfully, we are much more enlightened and as a result lean towards safer chemical products or natural remedies to do the job. Listed here are a few home-made remedies but I hasten to point out that some recipes contain products which are not totally harmless to humans, predators or the environment so care needs to be taken in their use and storage.

Fungicides

For black spot mix 3 level teaspoons bicarbonate of soda in 5 litres water and add a few drops of dishwashing liquid or fish emulsion which will help it stick to the leaves.

Another recipe is mix together 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda, 1 litre skim milk and 1 litre of water. Before spraying add a pinch of Condyl's Crystals. You may like to try 1 teaspoon Condyl's Crystals in 5 litres water as a fungicide.

Caution *To avoid serious damage being done to the plant, I strongly recommend that you do not exceed the rate of bicarbonate of soda or apply the fungicide during the heat of the day.*

GARDEN CALENDAR AUG/SEPT/OCT

01

By Arno King

In temperate and cool climates, spring is a significant time. After

months of icy weather gardeners can finally get outside and prepare their gardens for the brief spring and summer growing season. The ground is moist after winter rains and spring is mild with ongoing 'spring showers'.

Time for a reality check – we live in the tropics and subtropics – spring is not the easiest season in the warm climate garden.

The dry air, intense sun, cloudless skies and rapidly increasing temperatures suck the water from the soil and plants. The winter months have generally been quite dry, so there is little moisture in the soil. This is not a season for the faint-hearted, but do take heart in the knowledge that rains will come and the garden will soon be lush again.

Some unscrupulous garden centres will be advertising 'Now is the time to get into gardening' – do not be conned! The experienced gardeners are prepared, but I fear we lose many

keen new gardeners with this kind of advertising. Newly planted seedlings and plants often fail unless watered frequently, given some shade or shelter and mulched well. I find that plants are slower to establish between late September and November and yet will establish and grow rapidly between December and May. Rain, cloud cover and humidity make all the difference.

Night temperatures will plummet and frosts may occur in low lying or inland areas around the full moon (between 8th and 13th of August). While temperatures may not go down as low as in previous months, damage is often much more severe. The warm days have stimulated fresh growth so plants are at their most susceptible. Damage will show up in the following few weeks and can be trimmed out immediately as there is unlikely to be any further cold weather. You can tell when the really cold nights are likely – the skies are clear and cloudless, the air is still and as the sun sets,



02

- 01 *Celosia spicata*
- 02 Silver Beet
- 03 *Gomphrenia globosa*
- 04 Petunias
- 05 Luffa
- 06 Sweet potato
- 07 *Lactuca sativa* – a different form of lettuce.

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